

REMARKS

Claims 23-38 are all the claims pending in the application. By way of this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 23 and 31 to further clarify the invention. In addition, Applicant adds new claims 39 and 40.

Statement of Substance of Interview and Prior Art Rejections

In the Advisory Action mailed May 16, 2006, the Examiner indicated that the features being argued are not recited in the pending claims. Accordingly, Applicant's representatives have contacted the Examiner to discuss the rejections of record.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courteous telephonic interviews on May 26, 2006. During the interview independent claim 23 was discussed in view of the prior art of record *i.e.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,684,934 to Chen (hereinafter "Chen") and U.S. Patent No. 5,924,802 to Sakurai (hereinafter "Sakurai"). The Examiner appeared to agree that the proposed amendment to claim 23 should overcome the rejection of record but indicated that further search and consideration are required.

Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record fail to disclose or suggest the unique features of claim 23. That is, Chen discloses that a unit at the upstream side is cleared when an error occurs in a unit at the downstream side because an error in the unit at the upstream side has no influence on the unit at the downstream side of the error unit. In short, Chen does not disclose or suggest clearing a unit at the downstream side when an error occurs in a unit at the upstream side. Sakurai only discloses detecting whether or not the cable between the printer and the host computer is connected, and as such clearly fails to cure the deficient disclosure of Chen.

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The combined disclosure of Chen and Sakurai fail to disclose or suggest a clearer which would clear the data buffer located on the downstream side from the detector that detects that the printer cable is unplugged. For at least these exemplary reasons, claim 23 is patentable over the prior art of record.

Independent claim 31 recite features similar to, although not necessarily coextensive with, the features argued above with respect to claim 23. Accordingly, analogous arguments are applicable to claim 31. For at least similar exemplary reasons, therefore, claim 31 is patentable over the combined teachings of Chen and Sakurai. Claims 24-30 and 32-38 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 23 or 31.

New Claims

In order to provide more varied protection, Applicant adds claims 39 and 40. Claims 39 and 40 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 23 and 31, respectively.

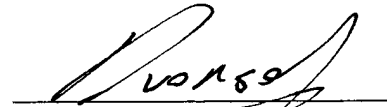
Conclusion

Entry and consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. Moreover, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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